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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 13, 14, 23 and 24 as follows. The claims currently pending read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating among a plurality of peer nodes in a network environment, comprising:

communicating a discovery command from a current peer node to at least one neighbor peer node, the neighbor peer node in communication with the current peer node, the discovery command including a time to live value indicative of the number of times that the discovery command is forwarded prior to communication expiration; and

receiving, at the current peer node, an aggregated list of peer nodes, the aggregated list of peer nodes comprising information about at least one peer node in communication with the at least one neighbor node, the information including an IP address and a port number on which each peer node can accept incoming connections, and wherein each node waits for a predetermined ping time out delay between communicating a subsequent discovery command.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
communicating the discovery command to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining the ~~predetermined~~ number of neighbor peer nodes.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
creating a peer table at the current peer node; and
updating the peer table with the aggregated list of peer nodes.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, at the current peer node, a second discovery command from an
originating peer node; and
communicating, from the current peer node directly to the originating peer
node, the peer table in response to the second discovery command.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a data message at the current peer node, the data message having a
unique descriptor.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
comparing the descriptor of the received data message to a descriptor table,
the descriptor table comprising a plurality of data messages and associated descriptors.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
updating the descriptor table with the received data message and the
descriptor of the received data message.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
forwarding a query command from the current peer node to a predetermined
number of neighbor peer nodes.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, at the current peer node, response data directly from at least one
other peer node, the at least one other peer node in communication with the at least one
neighbor node.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, at the current peer node, a query command from an originating peer node; and
communicating, from the current peer node directly to the originating peer node, response data in response to the query command.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
forwarding the query command from the current peer node to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.

13. (Currently Amended) Computer program product in a computer usable medium for communicating among a plurality of peer nodes in a network environment, comprising:

means for communicating a discovery command from a current peer node to at least one neighbor peer node, the neighbor peer node in communication with the current peer node, the discovery command including a time to live value indicative of the number of times that the discovery command is forwarded prior to communication expiration; and

means for receiving, at the current peer node, an aggregated list of peer nodes, the aggregated list of peer nodes comprising information about at least one peer node in communication with the at least one neighbor node, the information including an IP address and a port number on which each peer node can accept incoming connections, and wherein each node waits for a predetermined ping time out delay between communicating a subsequent discovery command.

14 (Currently Amended) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for communicating the discovery command to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes; and
means for determining the ~~predetermined~~ number of neighbor peer nodes.

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15. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for creating a peer table at the current peer node; and
means for updating the peer table with the aggregated list of peer nodes.
16. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, a second discovery command from an originating peer node; and
means for communicating, from the current peer node directly to the originating peer node, the peer table in response to the second discovery command.
17. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving a data message at the current peer node, the data message having a unique descriptor; and
means for comparing the descriptor of the received data message to a descriptor table, the descriptor table comprising a plurality of data messages and associated descriptors.
18. (Original) The product of claim 17, further comprising:
means for updating the descriptor table with the received data message and the descriptor of the received data message.
19. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for communicating a query command from the current peer node to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.
20. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, response data directly from at least one other peer node, the at least one other peer node in communication with the at least one neighbor node.

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21. (Original) The product of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, a query command from an originating peer node; and
means for communicating, from the current peer node directly to the originating peer node, response data in response to the query command.
22. (Original) The product of claim 21, further comprising:
means for forwarding the query command from the current peer node to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.
23. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating among a plurality of peer nodes in a network environment, comprising:
means for communicating a discovery command from a current peer node to at least one neighbor peer node, the neighbor peer node in communication with the current peer node, the discovery command including a time to live value indicative of the number of times that the discovery command is forwarded prior to communication expiration; and
means for receiving, at the current peer node, an aggregated list of peer nodes, the aggregated list of peer nodes comprising information about at least one peer node in communication with the at least one neighbor node, the information including an IP address and a port number on which each peer node can accept incoming connections, and wherein each node waits for a predetermined ping time out delay between communicating a subsequent discovery command.
24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for communicating the discovery command to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes; and
means for determining the ~~predetermined~~ number of neighbor peer nodes.

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25. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for creating a peer table at the current peer node; and
means for updating the peer table with the aggregated list of peer nodes.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, a second discovery command
from an originating peer node; and
means for communicating, from the current peer node directly to the
originating peer node, the peer table in response to the second discovery command.
27. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving a data message at the current peer node, the data message
having a unique descriptor; and
means for comparing the descriptor of the received data message to a
descriptor table, the descriptor table comprising a plurality of data messages and associated
descriptors.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising:
means for updating the descriptor table with the received data message and the
descriptor of the received data message.
29. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for forwarding a query command from the current peer node to a
predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.

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30 (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, response data directly from at least one other peer node, the at least one other peer node in communication with the at least one neighbor node.

31. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving, at the current peer node, a query command from an originating peer node; and
means for communicating, from the current peer node directly to the originating peer node, response data in response to the query command.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising:
means for forwarding the query command from the current peer node to a predetermined number of neighbor peer nodes.